# Old Heirloom Lost At Appomattox In 1865, May Have Been Returned

(Editor's note: The following interesting article recently appeared in the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot (Sunday, Feb, 6, 1955) and was mailed to us by a subscriber in Norfolk in the knowledge that Appomattox people would like to read it.)

By Louisa Venable Kyle

"Things find their way home" is a saying that has been proven true more than once. An heirloom that has left its original surroundings, been owned by numerous persons and moved almost around the world, will, by some strange chain of circumstances, return to the family that originally owned it.

The South, as a result of invasion during the War Between the States, lost many of its most cherished possessions. There are stories of members of a family finding old silver and china with their family crest on display in antique shops and in museums. Communion silver has been returned to Colonial churches after years. Confederate flags, made by the hands of Southern women, have come home to rest among other relics in war museums, located below the Mason-Dixon line. The collector is forever on the quest for silver, glass, china, coins, and stamps to fill in gaps among treasures. I, myself, had an interesting experience that proved to me that perhaps things do find their way home.

Many years ago, I was given a battered old silver teapot that had belonged to my grandfather's sister. She had lived at an old place called "Hickory Grove" within a few miles of Appomattox. The victorious army of Grant had camped in the yard, cut down fruit trees, killed all the livestock, ransacked the house but fortunately had not burned it down. Since Greataunt Mag had died before I came into possession of the teapot, I could never find out much about it or what happened to the other pieces of the service. No one else wanted it but even in its battered state I felt I had been given a treasure.

After it was mended and resilvered it became a cherished and lovely addition to my household. My youngest daughter spoke for it when she a little girl and she loved the carved morning glory on the cover and the leaves that formed the pedestal base as well as the roses in repousse on the urn-shaped pot. So I remembered that, when she grew up and married, it should belong to her and that in the meantime we would search in antique shops for other pieces of silver to match it. The distinctive design of the service and the fact that it was not handmade led me to believe that I might come upon a sugar bowl and cream pitcher similar to it.

After a period of years, it so happened that I was driving into town with a friend to the opening of a dress shop in an old house on Freemason Street. We fell to talking of old silver and I told her that I had been searching for a particular type of service hoping to find the pieces I wanted to match my old tea pot. As we entered the shop, coffee was being served and before me on the coffee table sat pieces of silver identical to the one I had. The coffee urn was different, but the sugar bowl and the cream pitcher matched even to the morning glory on the top. I could not believe my eyes and I asked the owner of the shop to tell me their history. She told me she had borrowed them from her mother who was in the next room.

The mother was a friend of mine, too, so I engaged her in conversation and told her of my quest. She assured me the silver had no association with her family, that she had bought the two pieces from an auction at a farm home in New Hampshire. I told her that they matched the tea pot that had been in my family and we both agreed that we had never seen silver of that pattern before.

The story has a happy ending. My generous friend let me buy the two pieces that she owned. These were repaired and re-silvered and they all belong to my little girl, now grown up and married; the old silver service adorns her sideboard.

Were the two lost pieces to the service stolen from 'Hickory Grove' near the battlefield at Appomattox and carried by a Yankee soldier to New England? There is no way of knowing, but we like to feel that once the three pieces belonged together and that the other two pieces of the service that are still missing may someday find their way home, too.

(Note: The above story in the Virginian-Pilot was illustrated with a picture of the silver discussed and the present owner, Mrs. Charles Moore.)

## Homemakers Items

The sheltered life isn't what it's cracked up to be when it comes to house plants.

S. B. Fenne, plant pathologist at VPI Agricultural Extension Service, says house plants are not immune to injury from pests and diseases; and that the indoor environment which some people presume to be favorable is really the cause of much trouble.

For instance, light is distributed unevenly in the average room; humidity (atmospheric moisture) is variable and often too low; the amount of soil is limited and root growth is limited correspondingly. Furthermore, the soil rapidly becomes water-soaked and just as rapidly dries out. There is little chance for the natural purifying processes through drainage and aeration.

A successful grower of house plants will try to correct the deficiency of indoor plant environment in such respects as light, humidity, temperature, and water, so it will approach the favorable conditions of the open ground and air.

Fenne advises:

Provide a good uniform light, supplementing this by artificial light if you are interested enough to go to the trouble and expense. Place the pots in shallow saucers filled with water to get a more favoarble humidity, or rest them in trays containing moist pebbles, vermiculite, or other clean water-absorbent materials. Plants kept in a very dry room should be enclosed, if practical, in a cellophane or glass case with a moist floor.

Avoid extreme changes in temperature. Most house plants generally flourish best at day temperatures not over 70 degrees. dropping 5 to 10 degrees at night. Water periodically with moderate wetness alternating with moderate dryness. Except for occasional drenches, which should be followed by prompt drying, to clean the foliage of dust and grime, heavy watering and likewise extreme drying should be avoided. The water applied to the soil should be near the temperature of the air, or slightly warmer if applied to the foliage. Protect house plants from fumes from gas coal, or oil stoves.

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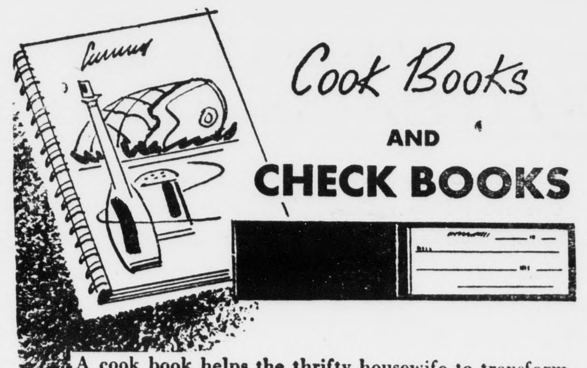
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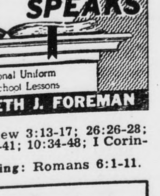
### In Remembrance

Lesson for February 20, 1955

...E words printed on this page ...re not like the things they ...to, they are not the same size, ... or shape. Yet every one who ...read these black marks on ... paper is reminded at once ...hat they stand for. A flag is ...he same color ...e as the coun... yet every ...l in school ...s what the ...eans. So it is ...those two sim... observances ...he Christian ...h, baptism ... the Lord's ...er. Some ...hes call these "ordinances"; ... call them "sacraments." ...rels over the right way to per... these, quarrels about their ...e meaning, make up one of ...arkest chapters of church his... Yet in every church these ...ymbols remain. Christians ev...here share the experience of ...m. If you, reading these ...are a Christian, then no doubt ... time or other you have been ...ed. Baptism is the Ceremony ...tiation, the Lord's Supper is ...eremony of Remembrance.



Dr. Foreman

**...is Death**

...ving the quarrels aside, what ...he church universal believes ... the Lord's Supper? The ...that can be said of it is that "in remembrance" of Christ. ...that matter, so is baptism; ...ere is scarcely room here to ... of both of these.) We re...er the death of Christ, first ... "Ye do show the Lord's ... . . ." How often Christians ...heard those solemn words! ...e bread is not neatly sliced, ...roken. The wine is not bottled ...is poured out. Broken bread ...oured-out wine take the wor...r back to a certain night in ...per room in Palestine, when ...d the table 11 anxious men ... for the first time those im... words, "This is my body, ... for you . . . This do in re...rance of me." They take us ...o the afternoon of the first ...Friday, when upon the stones ...e place called Golgotha ...d the lifeblood of one who ...uring out his life "a ransom ...any."

**...is Coming**

...e Lord's Supper is in mem... the past, it is also a reminder ... future. "Till He Come" — ...ords are heard at commun...erywhere in the Christian ... What do they mean? The ...hey can mean is that Chris...ook forward as well as back. ...orld will not go on and on ...n forever and ever just the ... The hope of Christians that ...ingdoms of the world will be...he kingdoms of our Lord and ...rist" will not always be only ... Christ has died for men; ... the memory the church ...alive. Christ will reign over ...om a throne of live; that is ...pe the church will not give ...ristians have differed and ...eep on differing as to just ...is hope is going to be ful... But the church believes with ... heart—Christ will win! He ... doomed to lose forever. ...ery communion gives testi...o this hope—"till he come."

**...is Living Progress**

... churches of the world, ... the pity, are so far from ...g about what the commun... our Lord's Supper means, ...en in a great gathering like ...f the World Council of ...es, not every one feels free ...e communion with all the ... Nevertheless, with all the ...nces, in every form of the ... Supper, in every church, ...s the conviction that Christ ...e than a memory, more than ... He is real; he is here. Clear ... heart of the Christian con... about the meaning of the ... Supper is the feeling that in ...mple rite He is really pres... Across all the centuries he ... to be with those who love ...ast, present, future, all unite ...burning moment. The open ...receives the unseen Guest, ...ace comes as never the ...gives peace, to hush the fears ...al the sorrows of the soul. ...gians may go on debating as ... it is, how it can be true. ...e simple Christian does not ... study many books for some ...ation of what in his heart he ...arned is true. If some one ...who was at communion this ...g, the first thing the remem...heart can say is not, I was ...or my neighbor was there; ...e was there. And he has ...come with me!

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### RESEED LADINO CLOVER IN TALL GRASS PASTURES

It's easier and cheaper to reseed ladino - clover in clover-tall grass pastures where it has died out than it is to completely renovate the pasture.

John F. Shoulders, associate agronomist at VPI Agricultural Extension Service, says in dry weather, ladino clover stands over two years old tend to die cut. However, it is the best pasture legume available at present for tall grass-legume pastures, and with careful management and reseeding as necessary it can spell profits for the farmer.

First, be sure the soil has a pH of between 6.0 and 6.5. If your soil has not been tested recently, have a soil test made to determine lime needs and fertility level.

Provide enough plant food. Topdress with from 400 to 800 pounds per acre of 0-14-14, or if potash is iow, 0-10-20. If grazing is short, a topdressing of up to 30 pounds of nitrogen will stimulate the grass. But control grass to give the clover seedlings a chance to grow. Graze rotationally or cut back to 2 inches each time the grass reaches an average height of 4- to 5 inches.

Seed two pounds of certified ladina clover per acre. For more grazing the first year, add 5 to 10 pounds of lespedeza, if lespedeza does well in your area, and/or 3 to 5 pounds of clover. Cover the seed. Disk the sod lightly, scatter seed, and follow with a cultipacker or drill the seed into the sod if the sod is soft enough for the disc to cut through. Or just scatter seed to "freeze and thaw in." These are methods which have been used successfully by Virginia farmers.

Seed early, —the earlier the better. In the coastal plain, Southern and Middle Piedmont, seedings can be made as soon as weather conditions permit. In Northern Piedmont and west of the Blue Ridge, seed around March 1 when soil can be tilled.

### STREPTOMYCIN CONTROLS WILDFIRE IN TOBACCO

The antibiotic, streptomycin sulfate, gives excellent control of wildfire in tobacco plant beds.

S. B. Fenne, plant pathologist at VPI, says the material should be used as a spray, and gives better wildfire control than the more familiar bordeaux mixtures.

In tests beds where the plants were heavily infected with wildfire before treatment, three weekly applications of streptomycin sulfate resulted in a striking recovery of the plants. In the untreated portions of the same beds wildfire continued to develop. Streptomycin does not injure tobacco plants if used at the recommendaed rate. However, excessive amounts should not be used.

Always follow the directions given by the manufacturer. When a 15% streptomycin sulfate powder is used, the directions should read about as follows: "Use 2 level teaspoonfuls of streptomycin powder to each gallon of water."

Place the required amount of powder in a fruit jar or other tight container, add a little water (not over two-thirds full), close the lid and shake well until the powder is thoroughly wet. Then stir the wetted material into the full amount of water to be used in the spray and the mixture is ready to use.

Remove the plant bed cover and spray the plants thoroughly. Use about 4 gallons of spray per 100 square yards, depending on the size of the plants, for each application.

The first application of streptomycin should be made at about the four-leaf stage, or when wildfire is first observed. Two or more additional applications should be made at 7-day intervals. Continue spraying as long as wildfire is active in the plant bed. If it rains within 24 hours after application of the chemical, repeat the treatment as soon as possible.

## Chick Chats

The growth of a chick depends on its inherited ability to grow, its food and water supply and environmental factors such as temperature, air supply and protection from parasites and other enemies. This last part is generally called brooding.

Brooding is in many ways the most difficult and critical period in the management of poultry| A poor brooding job is one of the most common causes of law profits.

Buying a good grade of chicks is a fine start. .but only a start— toward a profitable flock. Good chicks deserve and need good brooding in order to develop according to their copabilities.

The day before you expect your chicks, start a fire in the brooder stove or turn on the electric brooder. The house should be warm before chicks are brought into their new quarters.

Keep the humidity in the brooder house high for the first several days. A pan of water placed on the stove should help provide extra moisture. Remember that chicks will dry out if the temperature is high and the humidity low.

During the first day and evening keep a close watch over your chicks. Make sure they find feed and water. If chicks are too close to the stove, they probably are cold. If they push against the chick guard, they are too hot. Adjust temperature to keep chicks warm and comfortable.

It is also a good idea to provide chicks with a small amount of light during the night. It helps the chicks bed down evenly. However, the light should not be too bright or the chicks will begin eating. A 5-watt bulb is satisfactory under most conditions.

Fresh air and sunlight are also important to growing chicks. There should be some circulation of air at all times,, but avoid drafts. Sunlight is not only a source of vitamin D, but it also serves to some extent as a disinfectant.

Green feeds, such as lawn clip pings, sprouted oats and vegetable greens may be fed to chicks after the first week.

You will also want to teach chicks to roost. Early instructions on this will save trouble later on.

Range may be provided for the chicks when they are from 10 days to two weeks of age. Permit them to run on warm, sunshiny days, but only for a few hours, until they become accustomed to the change.

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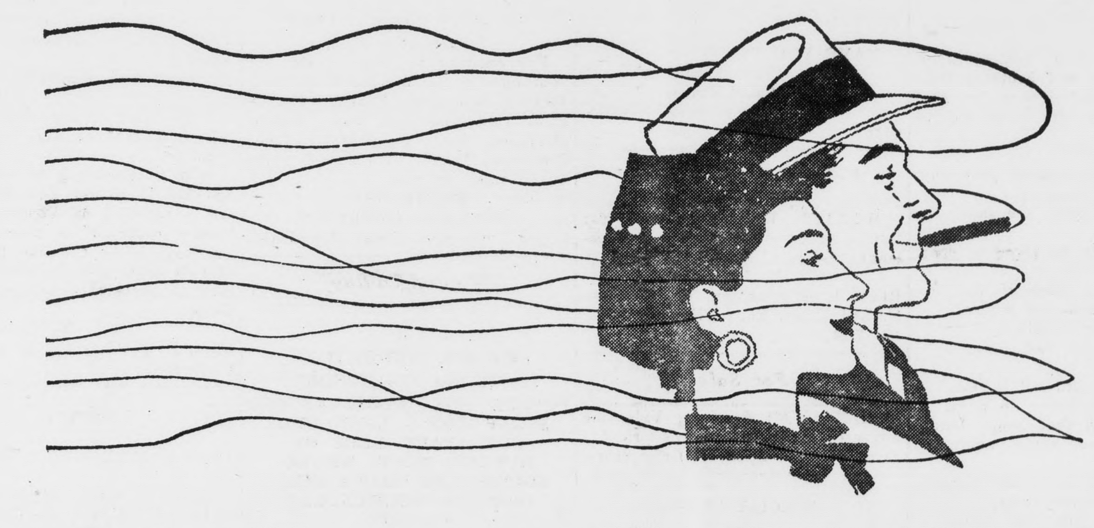
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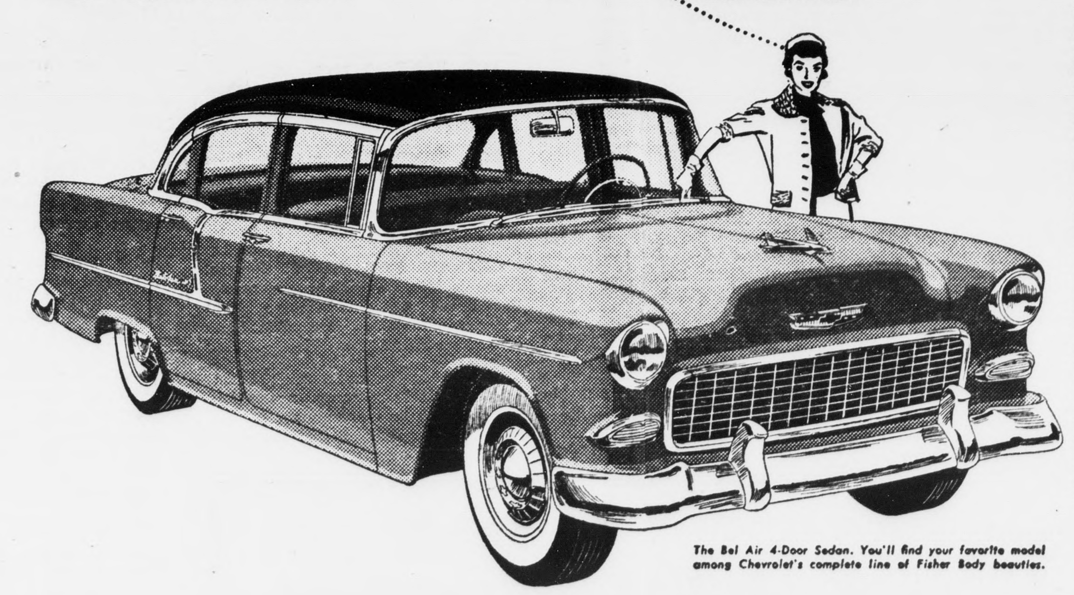
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